



STATE OF WASHINGTON

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Resolution No.05-01 **Washington State Conservation Commission** **School Fire**

Whereas, thousands of acres were burned on private grounds in headwaters of national forests commonly known as the "School Fire"; and

Whereas, this presents a great and eminent risk of erosion on very steep slopes that will carry huge loads of sediment into watercourses which are habitat for important anadromous, resident fish species and bull trout; and

Whereas, the affected area has a history of debris flows and flood events that threaten inhabitants, residential and commercial property along these affected watercourses; and

Whereas, as established by science and experience the establishment of a winter cover crop could significantly and effectively mitigate the impending harmful effects of the fire;

Whereas, to be effective, the cover crop must be planted immediately to become established before the soon approaching heavy winter rains; and

Whereas, it is incumbent upon the Commission to act consistent with its enabling act, RCW 89.08, since no other Local, State or Federal Agency has the financial resources available for timely remedial action;

NOW, THEREFORE, having made the findings stated above, Washington State Conservation Commission believes that an emergency exists and makes the following resolution to protect people, property and endangered fish resources of the Pomeroy and Columbia Conservation Districts.

Commissioner Boyum moved to empower the staff to seek funding for conservation practices to mitigate the effects of the fire. After funding is sought from other sources, the Commission approves funding at a maximum of \$200,000 for the school fire, with the proper nexus and understanding that an attempt will be made to ask the legislature to refill the operating budget with a maximum of \$200,000. Commissioner Brown seconds. Motion passed.

James L. Peters, Commission Chair
September 15, 2005

Mark A. Clark, Executive Director
September 15, 2005